

Message Text

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C-MR. KELLY(SUBS)

EUR/WE-MR. STEINER

ARA/BR-MS. ELTZ

S/S - MR. MOFFAT

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FOR VEST

E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: POST EDITORIAL ON FRG/BRAZIL NUCLEAR DEAL

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LEAD EDITORIAL IN JUNE 16 WASHINGTON
POST:

QUOTE TODAY WEST GERMANY'S PRESIDENT, WALTER SCHEEL, WILL
ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS OF TALKS AND
CEREMONY AS PART OF A STATE VISIT TO THIS COUNTRY. BE-
CAUSE US-GERMAN RELATIONS ARE FAIRLY STABLE AT THE MOMENT,
AND BECAUSE HEADS OF STATE--AS DISTINCT FROM HEADS OF
GOVERNMENT--DO NOT ORDINARILY ENGAGE IN NITTY-GRITTY
POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS ON SUCH VISITS, THERE IS NOT WHAT
YOU WOULD CALL A HIGHLY CHARGED AGENDA OF SUBJECTS FOR
THE TWO PRESIDENTS TO DISCUSS. BUT WE THINK THERE IS
ONE SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE URGENCY THAT MR. FORD'S
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ADMINISTRATION SHOULD TAKE UP WITH THE DELEGATION FROM

BONN. IT IS THE PROPOSED SALE BY THE WEST GERMANS TO BRAZIL OF EQUIPMENT REQUIRED TO PRODUCE A NUCLEAR BOMB. WE THINK THE TERMS OF THAT TRANSACTION CAN AND MUST BE MODIFIED.

THE KEY EQUIPMENT IN THE WEST GERMAN'S EXPORT PACKAGE IS NOT THE POWER-GENERATING NUCLEAR REACTORS WHICH WILL ENABLE THE BRAZILIANS OVER TIME TO PRODUCE CHEAP ELECTRIC ENERGY. RATHER IT IS THE EQUIPMENT FOR REPROCESSING SPENT FUEL AND ENRICHING URANIUM--NEITHER OF WHICH IS URGENT FOR THE BRAZILIAN CAPACITY TO GENERATE POWER AND BOTH OF WHICH CAN PROVIDE ACCESS TO WEAPONS-GRADE FUEL. THERE IS EVERY REASON, IT SEEMS TO US, FOR THE WEST GERMANS TO RECONSIDER THEIR APPARENT WILLINGNESS TO INCLUDE THESE CRITICAL ITEMS IN THE DEAL. THE BRAZILIANS HAVE BEEN ANYTHING BUT REASSURING ABOUT THEIR INTENTIONS WITH RESPECT TO ACQUIRING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THE WEST GERMANS, WHOSE EXPORTS ROSE LAST YEAR BY 29.2 PERCENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR AND WHO ARE RUNNING THE LARGEST TRADE SURPLUS OF ANY INDUSTRIAL COUNTRY, CAN HARDLY BE SAID TO BE IN DIRE NEED FOR OVERSEAS SALES. AND JUST A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO IN GENEVA, THE REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION TREATY AGREED ON SOME ACTIONS THAT, IN OUR VIEW, SHOULD BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO WORK BEFORE ANYTHING SO PRECEDENT-BREAKING AND FRAUGHT WITH DANGER AS THE WEST GERMAN-BRAZILIAN TRANSACTION GOES INTO EFFECT.

THE NATIONS AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE UNDERTOOK BOTH TO STRENGTHEN THE SAFEGUARDS AGAINST MISUSE OF TRANSFERRED NUCLEAR POWER-PRODUCING EQUIPMENT AND TO PUSH FOR MULTINATIONAL FUEL CYCLE FACILITIES THAT WOULD MAKE AVAILABLE THE BENEFITS THE BRAZILIANS MIGHT GET FROM THE 'EXTRAS' THE GERMANS ARE WILLING TO PROVIDE--BUT WHICH WOULD ALSO MAKE THE MISUSE OF SUCH 'EXTRAS' LESS POSSIBLE.

SURELY NOW THAT THE PARTIES TO THE NONPROLIFERATION TREATY--INCLUDING WEST GERMANY--HAVE RESTIRRED THEMSELVES TO TRY TO CONTROL THE DANGERS THAT ATTEND THE EXPORT OF NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS, IT WOULD BE RECKLESS OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FEDERAL REPUBLIC TO GO FORWARD WITH A BILATERAL BUSINESS ARRANGEMENT THAT DISREGARDS PRECISELY THE DANGERS THE CONFERENCE WAS ADDRESSING. AND THIS IS THE MORE SO IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE BRAZILIANS DO NOT REQUIRE THIS PARTICULAR TECHNOLOGICAL PLANT IN THE PERIOD OF TIME THAT IT MAY TAKE TO GET THE ALTERANTIVE FACILITIES AND THE STRENGTHENED SAFEGUARDS WORKING. THERE IS STILL TIME FOR THE WEST GERMANS TO ALTER THESE PARTICULAR

ASPECTS OF THE DEAL. WE THINK PRESIDENT FORD SHOULD TELL
OUR WEST GERMAN VISITOR THAT IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF

EVERYONE CONCERNED THAT THEY DO SO. UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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